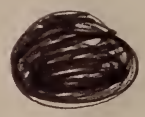

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Robbins, L. E.

The measurement system of cutting Dresses

Boston, 1875

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THE

Measurement System,

OF

CUTTING DRESSES.

INVENTED BY

MISS L. E. ROBBINS,

BOSTON.

Entered according to Act of Congress in Office of the Librarian at Washington, on the 27th day of Oct. 1874, by L. E. Robbins.

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The Measurement System

OF

CUTTING DRESSES.

INVENTED BY MISS L. E. ROBBINS, OF BOSTON.

In introducing this System to the public, the object is at last accomplished which so many have sought in vain for, viz: To cut ladies' garments perfectly by measure, using the measure only, and according to mathematical principles.

How often the question has been asked, "Why cannot ladies' dresses be cut on the same principle as gentlemen's coats and vests, and thus save so much time and trouble in fitting and re-fitting, after they have been cut by a chart or pinned to the figure?"

I am now ready to answer that question in the affirmative. They can by this System, using the measures of the waist and the square only, in drafting, by this method producing a perfect and elegant fit. This, I contend, is the ultimatum to which so many have only approximated. To measure the waist in two or three lines, and then apply those measures to a chart and cut the garment, or by substituting certain specified numbers and using the same number of numbers for every figure — using your own discretion about varying — *is not cutting by measure.*

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING THE MEASURES.

1st. Take the size of breast close under the arms, by passing the tape around the breast above the bust. This measure must be taken one inch tighter than an easy measure.

2d. Measure around the bottom of waist as tight as the garment is required to be.

3d. Measure from the neck bone to bottom of waist for length of waist.

4th. The width of back is obtained by measuring from the right to the left arm at the top of side seam.

5th. Length of shoulder should be varied to suit the customer and the prevailing style.

6th. Length of side seam is found by passing the inch tape around close up under the arm, and measuring from the top of tape to the bottom of waist.

7th. Height of neck is found by passing the inch tape around the shoulder, and measuring from the neck bone to the top of tape.

8th. Height of dart is found by measuring from the neck bone to the most prominent part of bust.

9th. Length of point is found by measuring from neck bone to bottom of waist in front, always allowing two inches below the waist, or as long a point as the customer can wear, as this gives a more graceful appearance to the figure.

10th. For length of sleeve, measure from the inside of the arm, taking note of the distance from the top to the curve or elbow.

11th. Measure for length of skirt at front, side and back, as long as desired. The length of skirt should never be allowed to touch the floor until it has passed the hip, even with the longest train.

If these measures are correctly taken and applied according to the following rules of drafting, the dress or garment will as surely be correct, and an elegant and graceful fit will be the result. But in all cases the greatest care must be taken to have every measure strictly accurate, as any measure taken imperfectly will render the garment imperfect, and although it can be corrected in trying on, much of the beauty of style will be lost.

If a dress has been cut, and upon trying on is found to be imperfect in any way, then correct the measure in your order book, which was too large or too small, and then how easy it becomes to cut the next garment for this figure. Every one who would become a good cutter must study the science, and the effect which every cause produces, as there is never an effect without a cause.

Now, although we have produced a good fit, we must consider that much of the style of the garment depends on the artistic taste of the cutter. For example, to locate the width of back and side body at the bottom of waist so as to give a round appearance to the waist: This may be done by making the back narrower and adding the same amount to the front — to locate the height of darts to the best advantage for the different figures — to curve the darts so as to allow no fulness at the top of dart — to give a sufficient curve below the bust — to give a point of sufficient length to give the figure an erect and graceful appearance — and to give each figure the style of garment best adapted to its form.

BASTING.

The greatest care must be used in basting, as however perfectly the dress may have been cut, to insure the fit we must baste with the greatest accuracy; basting the outside and lining together in the traced marks on the lining, which are made in tracing all the lines on the pattern, which are to be sewed, on the lining; baste the outside and lining smoothly

together, leaving a loose floating thread on the lining side. Cut the darts open before basting them together.

Stretch the front shoulder before joining it to the back. Commence all the seams at the top, and baste downward. Be careful to have all the lines on the back indicating the bottom of waist to be exactly parallel. In joining the front and back under the arm, hold the front a little tighter than the back, taking care at all times to baste exactly in the lines by means of the loose thread. Baste the sleeve in so that the seam shall come over the elbow when on.

In finishing up the dress, all the seams except the darts are to fall towards the front. After they are stitched, and the bone casings are stitched, pare them closely, to allow the waist to spring to the figure.

Have a strong belt, a trifle tighter than the dress, sewed to the seams, to hook before buttoning the dress, to relieve it from strain and to keep the waist in place.

DIRECTIONS FOR A MEDIUM-SIZED LADY.

The following are the measures of a medium-sized figure in the order in which they are to be taken:

Size of breast.....36
Size of waist.....25
Length of waist.....16
Width of back.....14
Length of shoulder.....6½
Length of side seam.....8
Height of neck.....4
Height of dart.....14
Length of point.....21
Length of arm.....16
Length of skirt, front.....
" " " side.....
" " " back.....

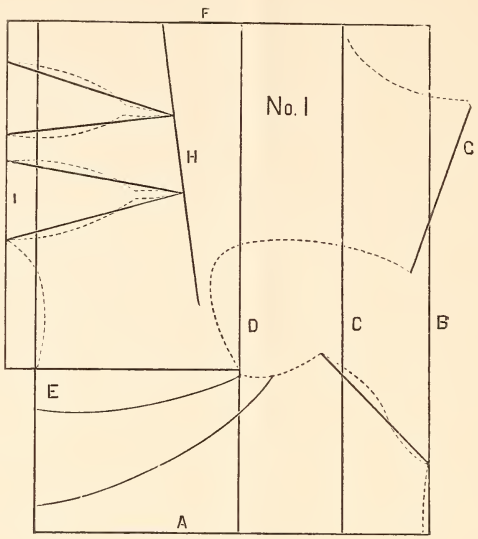


Diagram No. 1.

First find line A by the long arm of the square, and dot at 16 inches, which is the length of waist. Draw line B by the short arm. The height of neck being 4 inches, dot at 4 inches on the long arm for line C. Line D is 8 inches (the length of side seam) above the bottom of waist. Line E has already been indicated at the length of waist.

To find the width on line B, always take one-sixteenth of the breast measure. The width on line C is always one-fifth of breast measure. The width on line D is always one-half of width of back. The width of back on line E may be varied to suit the style of the garment, but is usually one-half an inch. Width of side body on line E is one-fifth of waist measure.

The shoulder is found by placing the square at the dot indicating the width on line B, with the length of shoulder at that dot, and the square intersecting line C, at the dot indicating the width of line C. Curve the arm-size from this point to the dot on line D. Curve the neck, commencing one-eighth of an inch below line B, and raising a little above at the shoulder line. For curving the shoulder, observe the diagram.

The sweep for the side body is found by taking a cord twice the width of back on line D, and taking the pencil and one end of the cord in the right hand, putting the left hand at a point where the pencil will touch at the half-inch dot on line E, and the centre between line C and D, as shown in the diagram. The sweep for the side seam is found in the same manner as for the back.

To draft the front, first extend lines B, C, D and E, and dot at one-third of the breast measure, between lines C and D, from line A, placing

the 12 inches, which is one-third of breast measure, and dotting at the end of the square. This gives the front of the arm-size; next find one-fourth of breast measure in a straight line from the last named dot, which will locate the middle of front; draw line F by placing the short arm parallel with line E and the long arm intersecting the dot, which indicated the middle of front. To find line G, or the shoulder line, place the short arm of the square parallel with line F, and raised one inch above line B; dot at one-half inch less than the height of neck (which will be 3½ inches) on the long arm; then turn the square so that the number indicating the length of shoulder touches this dot, and the corner of the square drops one and one-half inch below line B; draw line G, and curve the arm-size; take one-fourth inch from the shoulder, front and back, for the seam. Find line H by placing the square across from the lower part of arm-size, and dropping one and one-half inch on line F, to get the correct angle to allow the back dart higher than the front. Measure now for the height of dart, raising or lowering line H as the case requires. To find the top of front dart, take one-ninth of breast measure; for second dart, one fifth of breast measure from line F.

Measure for length of point, and draw a new line below line E. To locate first dart at bottom, take one-sixteenth of waist measure from line F. Draw the line for side seam by placing the short arm of the square on line D, at the junction of the front and back arm-size, and dot for the length of side seam; allow one-fifth of waist measure from the side seam towards line F, and dot for the back of second dart. Divide the remaining space into two darts, first deducting one-half inch, which is the space between the darts, and allow the back dart to be one-half inch larger than the front one; draw and curve the darts as shown by diagram.

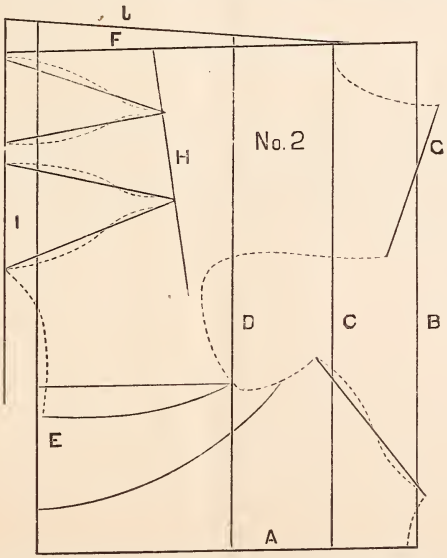


Diagram No. 2.

For a stout or very corpulent figure, draft as in diagram No. 1, and spring out from line F one-half inch, or more if required, as shown in the diagram. Obtain the top and bottom of dart from this line, instead of line F.

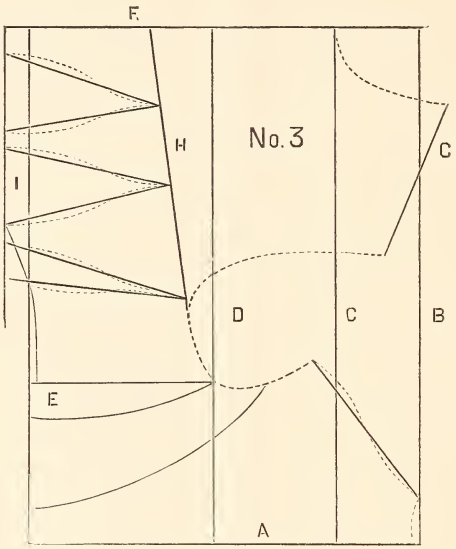


Diagram No. 3.

This method is adapted to such figures as require a full bust and slight waist, but may be applied to all. Draft the same as in the preceding diagrams, deducting one-half inch from one-fifth of waist measure, at bottom of waist, for the space between the second and third darts — allow one or two inches for fullness of third dart — which is to be taken from first and second darts.

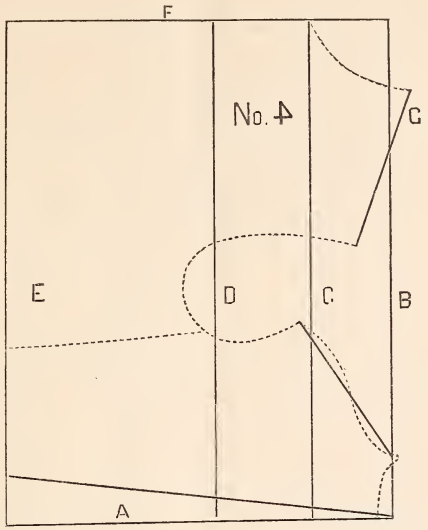


Diagram No. 4.

This diagram shows the method of drafting a loose waist. The lines are all obtained from line A, as in the foregoing diagram; but the widths are obtained from the inside line which was obtained by springing in from line A, on line E, two inches, which will make the fulness in back. Allow two inches for the gathers.

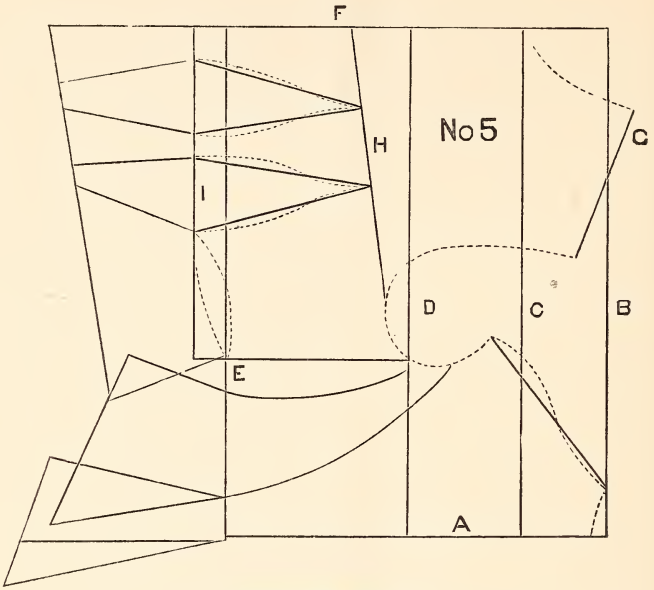


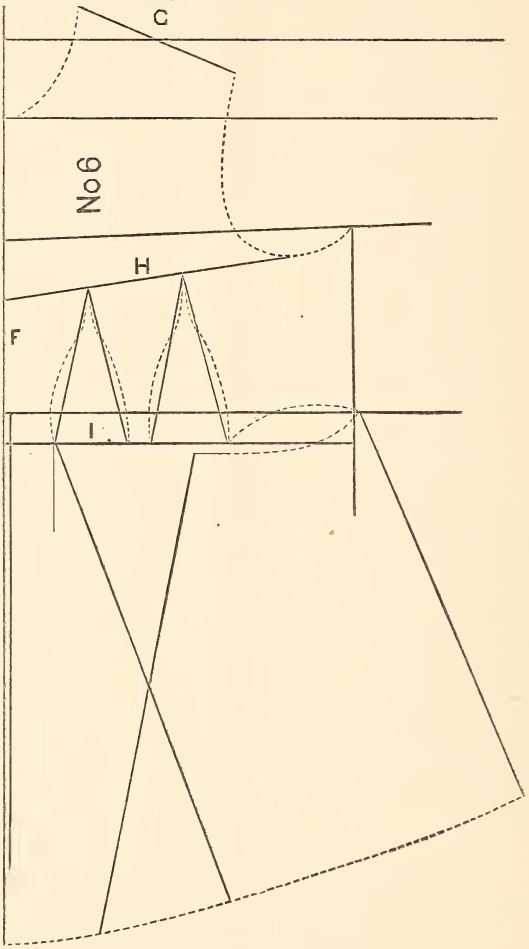
Diagram No. 5.

BASQUE.

Draft the waist as in Diagram No. 1. Extend line A eight inches below line E, and spring out one and one-half inches; draw a line from line E and A to this dot. Allow the width from the extended end of line A to be one inch less than half the length, and place the short arm of the square, with the number indicating this width, at the end of line A, the long arm intersecting line E at the junction of back and side body, and draw the line. To draft the side body, dot by the long arm, the short arm being parallel with line E, the same length as the line last drawn, and spring out one and one-half inch; draw the line from this dot. Dot four inches below the waist at side seam, and spring out one and one-half inch. For the front, extend line F six inches below the line I. Dot at bottom of front of first dart six inches below line I, and spring in one-half inch, and draw the line; spring in one-half inch from this line, and draw the line from back of first dart.

The second dart is found in the same manner. Dot four inches below line I, at side seam, and spring out two inches, and draw all the lines as shown in the diagram.

This gives the principle for cutting a basque which may be varied into many beautiful shapes, according to the taste and skill of the cutter.


C
No6
H
F
I

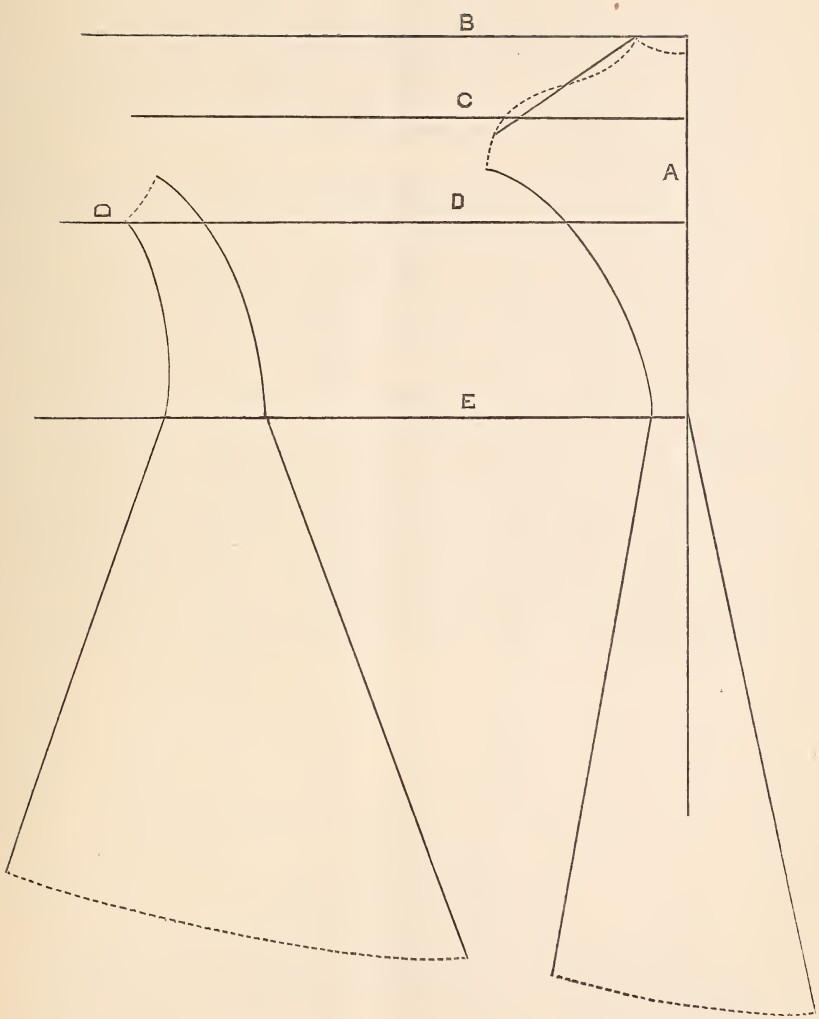

B
C
A
D
E

Diagram No. 6.

This diagram teaches the method of drafting polonaise, and may also be applied to cutting a gabrielle dress. The back is drafted the same as a basque, being extended as long as required.

To draft the skirt and front, extend line F as long as required. Dot in a direct line four inches below line I, at the bottom of first dart, and spring out one and one-half inch; draw the line as shown in the diagram, making as long as required. In drafting the side piece, add one inch to allow for seam and space of dart, and dot in a direct line below this point, on line I, four inches, and draw the line; four inches below line I, at side seam, dot and spring out two inches; draw the line as long as the skirt is required to be.

The polonaise may be cut in this manner, or by extending the darts into the skirt, taking care to have them taper to a sufficient length to prevent fulness at the bottom of dart.

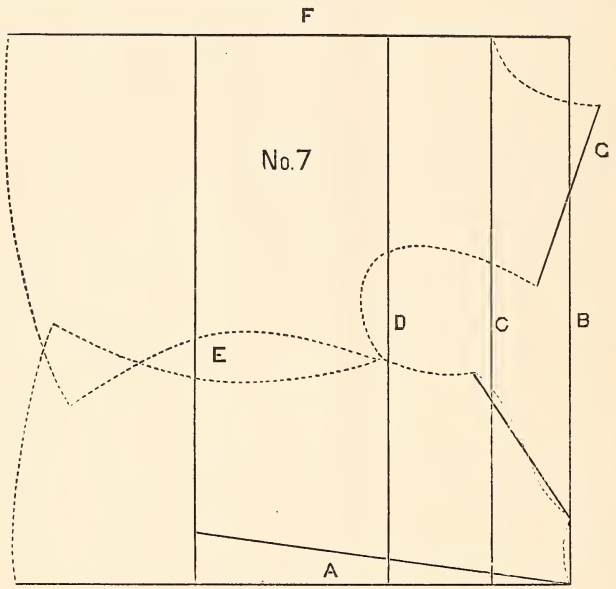


Diagram No. 7.

PLAIN SACQUE.

Obtain all the lines as in the waist, and spring in from line A, on line E, two inches, and draw a line as shown in diagram; from this line get the width, instead of from line A; four inches below line E, at the side seam, spring out one and one-half inch. The front is drafted the same as a dress front, except at side seam, on line E, we spring in one inch, and curve the side seam to this dot; four inches below line E, at side seam,

spring out one and one-half inch; extend these lines as long as the sacque is required to be and shape at bottom, according to the prevailing style.

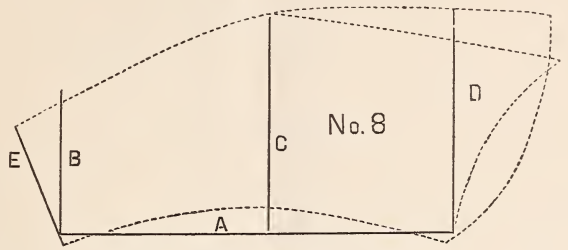


Diagram No. 8.

SLEEVE.

Line A is drawn by the long arm of the square, and is sixteen inches long; line B is five inches, which is the average size of a sleeve at the wrist. To find line C, we measure from the top of inside of sleeve, to the bend of the arm. Line D is the top of sleeve. The head of sleeve is usually four inches higher than line D. After having raised this four inches, curve for sleeve head. The width on line D should be one-fourth of breast measure; the width of line C, one-fourth of breast measure from line A, and the width of line B is five inches. Line E is found by dropping one and one-half inch below line B, and drawing on angle to the junction of line A and B. Commence at line E, and curve up to top of sleeve head, touching at all the dots at back part of sleeve. The curve of sleeve at the inside, on line C, should be one inch from line A, and should spring one-half inch from the junction of line A and B.

The under side of sleeve should be one and one-half inch smaller on line D than the upper side, and should be curved as shown in diagram.

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